



Parks & Recreation Department
City of Frisco, Texas

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Maso and Members of the Frisco City Council

Cc: George A. Purefoy, City Manager
Henry J. Hill, Deputy City Manager
Rick Wieland, Director of Parks and Recreation

From: Dudley Raymond RLA, Parks Planning and Business Development Manager

Date: July 24, 2009

Agenda Caption: Discuss and seek direction from Council regarding the proposed funding and development of a temporary dog park at BF Phillips Community Park.

Action Requested: Staff would like to discuss and seek input from Council regarding the proposed funding and development of a temporary dog park facility to be located at B.F. Phillips Community Park.

Background Information: The City Council approved the master plan revision to BF Phillips Community Park in January of 2009 to include a dog park facility. At that time Staff discussed the merits of the location chosen and proposed for the dog park. At the time the master plan was revised, there were no funds allocated to the construction of this permanent facility.

Once approved, the Parks and Recreation Board began the process of discussing the allocation of funds for this project. Staff had identified that funding would not be available any sooner than 2012 without shifting some current projects or priorities. At this time the Board has not taken any action to allocate funding for the permanent dog park.

Frisco Dog Park Incorporated approached the Parks and Recreation Board and asked if there would be a way for the group to partner with the City and construct a portion of the park sooner than the potential 2012 date. The Board asked Frisco Dog Park Inc. to meet with Staff and ascertain the viability of this potential partnership.

Frisco Dog Park Inc's original thought was for them to help with the cost of constructing a fence and a few of the other basics to get the park up and operational. As Staff discussed this further with the group, it became obvious that the permanent location had a number of construction costs that would also be associated with a temporary facility. This included infrastructure items such as parking, water taps and potential water line, sewer taps, grading of the site, irrigation and grass establishment. Once totaled, the cost of the project was more than Frisco Dog Park Inc. felt they could take on successfully. At that time, the concept of a temporary park in another location was suggested.

Staff looked at several sites that would need less infrastructure development and that could serve as a temporary home for the dog park. Those sites were the open areas where a potential future recreation center is identified on the Harold Bacchus Community Park master plan as well as the area south of the elevated water tower at BF Phillips Community Park.

Both of these locations have water service fairly close, need minimal grading and have existing parking that could serve the temporary dog park. The site chosen by the Parks and Recreation Board was the BF Phillips site due to it having less cost associated with a temporary dog park, and the fact that it is in the same park as the permanent facility's location.

Staff evaluated the site and feel that a temporary park in this location would cost approximately \$75,000. This is a bare bones facility that would include fencing, a drinking fountain, automated irrigation and the establishment of grass. It should be noted that project cost does not address increased maintenance cost or cost associated with animal control that would be associated with the dog park. Staff contacted the City of Plano and they feel they spend approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 for the yearly maintenance of their dog park. Plano estimates they spend \$5,500 per year on contractual litter service which includes emptying waste receptacles and refilling bag stations (this cost is part of a larger contractual litter service), \$4,000 per year for waster bags for user pick up, 60-80 man hours a year for general maintenance, 160-180 man hours a year for turf maintenance (including truck and light equipment). Comparison of the existing facility in Plano and the proposed temporary dog park are fairly similar in size. Frisco Dog Park Inc. committed to assisting with the funding of the development in the amount of \$25,000 and committed to attempt to generate a goal of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 annually to assist with maintenance cost.

The Parks and Recreation Board as well as the Community Development Corporation Board both felt that a partnership had merits and made recommendations to allocate \$25,000 from both the Park Development Fund and the Community Development Corporation's budget to go towards the construction of the temporary dog park. Both groups felt, that among other things that;

- It was good to partner with a local group and help meet the needs of the community;

- It would be good to have the temporary facility to gauge the actual use prior to constructing the permanent facility. This would allow the correct decision to be made concerning the permanent facility;
- It was a relatively small investment that allowed a need to be met in the interim until the permanent facility could be constructed.

A couple of the concerns expressed were:

- Due to the fact that it would be unlikely that new budget dollars would be assigned to the Parks Department for this additional maintenance responsibility, it would require that other areas within the existing system receive a bit less to allow for the maintenance of a temporary dog park;
- Due to future budget issues the temporary facility may remain in place longer than originally anticipated;
- Due to it being a bare bones facility, residents may not be happy with it not meeting current Frisco standards for Park development and there could be future request for funding of things such as shade and landscaping etc.

Staff is looking for direction from the City Council on whether or not to proceed with the project.

If approved by Council, Staff would begin preparing the design and bid documents, bring the contract(s) for construction to City Council for approval, then have the temporary dog park constructed. The timing of the opening will be entirely dependent upon the establishment of grass but if approved by Council during the August 18, 2009 meeting; this should then allow for it to be open by midsummer 2010.

Board Review/Citizen Input: The Parks and Recreation Board has discussed this temporary facility at two regular meetings and the Community Development Corporation has discussed it at one of their regular meetings.

Alternatives:

- Approve
- Table
- Not approve
- Direct Staff to make change

Financial Considerations: Funding for this project has been recommended to be allocated from the Park Development Fund in the amount of \$25,000 and the Community Development Corporation budget in the amount of \$25,000 along with a contribution of a \$25,000 from the Frisco Dog Park Inc.

Legal Review: Not applicable.

Supporting Documents:

- Map of potential location

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that if a temporary dog park be constructed that it be placed at BF Phillips Community Park.